

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2013

CONTACT:
Kimberle Hall, 402-471-6228
kim.hall@nebraska.gov

Conservation group recognized by Governor for volunteer efforts

Lincoln, Neb. – Since its inception in 1992, Five Rivers RC&D volunteers have assisted rural communities in natural resource conservation programs, economic and community development, as well as recreation and tourism projects. Five Rivers RC&D Council is proud of its achievements over the past 20 years. Examples of its work include the household hazardous waste collections, the Southeast Nebraska Grassland Association (SENGA), electronics collections and recycling events, and the Five Rivers Weed Management Area (WMA).

Governor Heineman and First Lady Sally Ganem honored the volunteer based service group with the Governor's Points of Light group award at a ceremony in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol. The awards are sponsored by ServeNebraska, Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission and presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

The RC&D supports the continued efforts of the WMA in controlling noxious and invasive weeds through educating landowners and managers on proper techniques and appropriate spraying methods while ensuring the safety of other non-invasive grass species, livestock, and wildlife habitats.

In 2012, Five Rivers received a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to host Household Hazardous Waste Collections throughout nine cities in southeast Nebraska. The collections were attended by over 450 households disposing of 26,559 pounds of potentially hazardous materials.

Honors include, becoming the first RC&D in the nation to achieve the Circle of Diamonds Enhanced Level and only the fifth RC&D in the nation to receive the elite Premier Circle of Diamonds Level, an elite honor among the 375 RC&Ds nationwide. Since its inception, the Council has supported 323 total projects. Five Rivers RC&D puts new meaning to the term "volunteer" and serves as a prime example of what it means to really "make a difference" in rural Nebraska!

To nominate individuals and groups for the Governor's Points of Light Awards who have made a difference through volunteerism and service, visit the ServeNebraska website at www.serve.nebraska.gov. The next nomination deadline is March 15, 2013.

ServeNebraska pursues its mission of mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service programs.

- ### -